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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE SITUATION IN TAJIKISTAN

1. In my report to the Security Council dated 5 May 1994 (S/1994/542), I informed the members of the Council about the situation in Tajikistan and the results of the first round of inter-Tajik talks on national reconciliation, under United Nations auspices, which were held in Moscow from 5 to 19 April 1994. The present report contains an account of subsequent developments.

I. THE SITUATION IN TAJIKISTAN

2. The situation in Tajikistan and, particularly, on its border with Afghanistan remains tense. Armed opposition groups engage in cross-border infiltration and fighting with Government forces on a daily basis. Another alarming dimension is the danger of confrontation in the country along ethnic lines. The recent violent clashes in the Gissar Valley between Uzbeks and Tajiks, together with large-scale confrontation between Uzbek and Tajik forces in Afghanistan, could spill over to other Central Asian States, with unpredictable consequences for the whole region.

3. I am also concerned at what appears to be an assassination campaign against Russian military personnel in Tajikistan. During the last five days, seven Russian officers have been killed in Dushanbe alone. Such terrorist acts are deplorable. They could further aggravate the explosive situation in the country and undermine efforts to reach a political solution.

4. The economic situation in Tajikistan also continues to deteriorate. Many industrial enterprises are at a standstill. The economic infrastructure and the distribution system are paralysed, not least because money circulation is strangled by the scarcity of rouble bank notes. The population is suffering from shortages of food, medicine and other necessities. This economic crisis and the continued violence hinder the efforts of the Government and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to reach an early solution to the refugee problem.

5. In this context, the first working meeting of the Joint Commission on problems relating to refugees and displaced persons from Tajikistan was a positive development. During that meeting, held in Moscow on 1 June 1994 under

the chairmanship of representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Joint Commission worked out its rules of procedure and identified three broad objectives for future activities, including enumeration and registration of the Tajik refugees in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and other countries, provision of humanitarian assistance to them, and cooperation with the national immigration services of CIS and other countries. The second meeting of the Joint Commission is scheduled for late June 1994.

II. CONSULTATIONS ON THE SECOND ROUND OF INTER-TAJIK TALKS

6. In connection with the preparation of the second round of inter-Tajik talks, Ambassador Ramiro Piriz-Ballon, my Special Envoy for Tajikistan, visited Teheran from 12 to 15 May 1994 for consultations with leaders of the Tajik opposition and the Iranian authorities. He had extensive discussions with Mr. A. Turojanzodah, First Deputy Chairman of the Islamic Revival Movement, and head of the delegation of the opposition at the inter-Tajik talks; Mr. O. Latifi, Chairman of the Coordinating Committee of the Democratic Forces of Tajikistan in the CIS countries; Mr. T. Abdujabar, Chairman of the "Rastokhez" People's Movement; and other leading opposition personalities. He also had talks with Mr. A. Velayati, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and other senior officials of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

7. Mr. Marrack Goulding, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, visited Dushanbe from 27 to 28 May 1994 and had extensive talks about preparations for the second round of inter-Tajik talks with Head of State E. Rakhmonov, Prime Minister A. Samadov, Foreign Minister R. Alimov and other senior members of the Tajik leadership. In addition, Mr. Goulding had a meeting in Tashkent with President Karimov of Uzbekistan, who expressed his support for the United Nations peace-making efforts in Tajikistan.

8. In view of these developments, I instructed my Special Envoy to invite the Tajik parties to the second round of talks in Teheran on 18 June 1994. I also instructed him to inform the Governments of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan and Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) officials, who will again attend the talks as observers.

III. OBSERVATIONS

9. Mr. Piriz-Ballon's talks in Teheran and Mr. Goulding's in Dushanbe have cleared the way for the second round of inter-Tajik talks, which is to start on 18 June 1994 in Teheran, and established their main objective - an agreement on the cessation of hostilities, which would confirm that a viable political process of national reconciliation had been launched. In this event, I would be ready to recommend that the Security Council respond positively to any reasonable and practicable request of the Tajik parties for international monitoring mechanisms.

10. In these circumstances, it is my intention to extend the current mandate of my Special Envoy, which expires at the end of June 1994, for another three months until the end of September 1994. I believe it will also be necessary to extend for the same period the mandate of the small group of United Nations officials currently in Tajikistan. In view of the encouraging progress achieved so far in establishing political dialogue between the Tajik parties concerned, their functions will include:

(a) Providing essential, substantive and other support for the activities of the Special Envoy;

(b) Assessing the military and security situation in Tajikistan;

(c) Providing political liaison and coordination services, which could facilitate prompt humanitarian assistance by the international community;

(d) In coordination with the CSCE mission in Tajikistan, monitoring the human rights situation and providing advisory services to the relevant governmental bodies.

11. The inter-Tajik political dialogue gives the Tajik people the chance to prevent further confrontation and bloodshed in their country. In this connection, I appeal to the Tajik parties to show restraint and to refrain from any action that could obstruct the process of negotiations. I also count on the continued cooperation and assistance of regional and other countries in our efforts to make political dialogue irreversible and to restore peace and tranquillity in Tajikistan.
